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## CREDITS SOVIET SPECIALISTS WITH STARTING LOCOMOTIVE PRODUCTION IN SOFIA PLANT

The first Bulgarian locomotive, a squat steam shunting locomotive, was built in the "Georgi Dimitrov" Plant in Sofia with the aid of Soviet specialists.

Since then, the plant has produced three new steam locomotives and ten 17ton steam rollers of the Nasha Pobeda type for building roads.

In 1947 the Sofia Locomotive and Railroad Car Repair Plant was in poor shape. Eighty percent of the production of the casting shop had to be classed as breakage. To many people the construction of a locomotive seemed an impossibility when the plant was not fulfilling the state plan for repair of rolling stock and when the organizational and economic system of the plant was in a state of chaos.

However, great assistance was given to the plant by Soviet specialists. Engr Aleksandr Venediktovich Koval'skiy introduced casting under pressure in the casting shops, created a new furnace charge mixture, and organized the production of electrodes for cutting metal. Soviet Engr Ivan Grigor 'yevich Sokolov helped organize the production of a great quantity of parts which formerly were imported from other countries. He worked out a technique for heat treatment of metals and drew up all the technical plans for the manufacture of tools and parts for locomotives and railroad cars.

Engr Slavko Stoyanov is chief engineer of the plant. Engineer Dmitri Petkov is chief technologist.

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